



Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Margaret Mims, Sheriff
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News Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Joint Press Conference

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims
Clovis P.D. Captain Drew Bessinger

PC 211 Investigation:

After a two month investigation by detectives from the Sheriff's Office and Clovis Police Department, four subjects have been arrested in connection with five different armed robberies.

Arrested were;

Cornelio Valencia, 23 years old from Fresno
Julio Cesar Ramos, 18 years old from Fresno
Luis Mendez, 19 years old from Fresno
17 year old female juvenile from Fresno

On August 8th, 2007 at approximately 8:30 pm, while walking home in the 4800 block of E. Amherst Ave, the female victim was approached by an unknown male subject wearing a bandana across his face.

As he got closer, he pointed a handgun at her and demanded her purse.

After giving him her purse, the suspect ran a short distance, got into a waiting vehicle and drove away.

A short time later, the suspects were caught on video tape using the victim's credit cards at a Clovis store.

During the investigation, it was learned that the same suspects may have committed an armed robbery at a church in the City of Clovis and a joint investigation ensued.

Detectives were eventually able to locate a witness who was able to identify all of the suspects involved in both armed robberies.

Assisted by the Sheriff's Department's SWAT team, on October 16th, 2007, detectives served arrest warrants and search warrants at the residences of Cornelio Valencia and Luis Mendez.

During the searches, evidence linking the two subjects to the armed robberies was seized including two replica semi-automatic handguns that were allegedly used during the crimes.

Evidence seized also linked Julio Cesar Ramos to the armed robberies.

Cornelio Valencia was arrested this past Saturday morning as he was entering the Presidio military base in Monterey. He was taken into custody by Federal Police after a routine ID check at the gate revealed the arrest warrant.

Valencia was at the base because he is an Army reservist. He had previously been an Army Ranger and had been honorably discharged.

Luis Mendez, Julio Cesar Ramos, and the 17 year old juvenile were taken into custody at their homes this past Tuesday during the service of the warrants.

As of this time, all three suspects have been charged with three counts each of armed robbery, and one count each of burglary

The 17 year old juvenile was arrested after using the victim's credit cards to purchase products including food and gasoline. She was charged with burglary, forgery, unlawful use of credit cards, and possession of stolen property.